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REMARKS

The amendments to the claims are to remove multiple dependencies. Newly drafted Claims 60-150 are within the scope of the original invention and do not add any new subject matter.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

Very truly yours,

PRICE AND GESS

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2 [or Claim 3], wherein

in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and

in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

21. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 6 to 20] Claim 6, wherein

the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and

in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is interrupted, and

the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

22. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 6 to 20] Claim 6, wherein

the sealing step includes:

a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

23. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 20] Claim 1, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

32. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 20] Claim 1 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

42. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 36 to 41] Claim 36, wherein

whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the sealing step and the bonding step include:

a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

43. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of [one of Claims 36 to 41] Claim 36, wherein

in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

51. (Amended) The exhaust pipe sealing off apparatus of Claim 49 [or Claim 50], wherein

the restriction member is disposed at tow locations or more along the exhaust pipe between the heating unit and the exhaust pipe.

53. (Amended) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in [one of Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 20] Claim 1.

Claims 60-150 have been added.

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